

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record, neither singularly nor in combination teach a method for processing order related to a family of products in a supply chain management system, said family of products containing a plurality of member items, said plurality of member items having similarities in resource requirements, wherein a computer system receives a time fence (TF) duration associated with each of said plurality of member items in pair with a first member item, wherein said first member item is also contained in said plurality of member items of said family, wherein said TF duration associated with a member item in pair with said first member item represents an amount of advance time duration after which the supply of that member item is available to satisfy the demand for said first member item; said computer system receives a first order specifying a first required quantity of said first member item and a first required date, wherein said first required date is after said TF duration from a time said first order is received, and wherein only Qavail units of said first member item are scheduled to be available as of said first required date, wherein Qavail is less than said first required quantity; determining in said computer system a first available quantity of all of said plurality of member items scheduled to be available after said TF duration and as of said first required date, and a second available quantity of said first member item scheduled to be available as of end of said TF duration; and indicating in said computer system that said first order be promised if said determining determines that said first available quantity and said second available quantity scheduled to be available as of

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said first required date is sufficient to fulfill said first required quantity, as taught by claim 1.

Claims 21, 41, and 61 contain similar limitations as claim 1 and therefore are allowed for similar reasons.

Claims 2-20, 22-40, 42-60, and 62-80 depend from claims 1, 21, 41, and 61 and therefore are allowed for similar reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMSEY REFAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RAMSEY REFAI/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627

October 21, 2009